

Tori Robinson Inkognitogata 4, 0259 Oslo Norway

**EFFECTS OF SMALL-MEDIUM SCALE FRAGMENTATION ON NEARBY FOREST FLOOR  
CONDITIONS AND IN PLANT FLOOR COMMUNITY.**

Tori Robinson and Vitor Resende torikjo@student.ibv.uio.no

**Abstract:** Forest fragmentation results from deforestation and disturbance, with subsequent edge effects extending into remaining forest areas. Fragmentation of the Amazon has led to huge concern regarding conservation, as fragmentation is known to affect biodiversity and forest services. Forest close to a fragmented area is more exposed to the outside environment. This changes in growing conditions alters the plant community and favour a different suit of plants. The main objectives of this study were to document edge effects of small-medium scale fragmentation. Smaller scale fragmentation is of growing concern and not as researched. We wished to add to existing knowledge and investigate its impacts on forest floor by studying changes in environmental factors and in plant communities. The research was conducted in Caxiuana forest reserve, Para, Brazil. Two transects were established, one within 20 m of the forest edge and one 800 m from the edge, in this case representing the forest interior. Sampling area was 5 x 1m:1m and repeated in both environments.

**Keywords:** *Amazon basin, Deforestation, Conservation, Edge effect, Forest floor, Forest fragmentation, Microclimatic conditions, Small scale fragmentation, Successional species, Terra firme*